

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

[Continued from First Page.]

other an apothecary, and therefore the board ought to be abolished.

He read from the report of the board a contract between old Washington before the board was established and Washington of the present day, showing what had been done by the board.

The expense he showed had been made less under the board than it was under the old system of Sanitary Police, Garbage-masters, and Cars, and the other attendant expenses, which were with it, was accomplished then as compared with what was now done.

The Board of Health of Washington, he contended, would compare favorably with any city in the United States, in the matter of economy and efficiency.

Mr. MERRIMON thought the Board of Health was not properly constituted. It was a practical despotism. He was astonished to find that the board could do nothing. They could condemn a house and pull it down without the consent of the owner, without even giving him a hearing. He had suggested that the Board of Health should be placed under the Board of Commissioners, but the Health Board had voted at it, and insisted that this absolute power was essential to their efficiency.

He considered the proposition that the board could condemn a house and pull it down a monstrous one. He referred to the case of printing in traps into this District, and said some stringent measures ought to be adopted to prevent this. He desired to propose an amendment to the effect that all persons who are now residing or may hereafter reside in this District, and shall not have any other fixed abode anywhere else, shall be considered citizens of the United States. He proposed to do this because he did not think that citizenship in the District was sufficiently well defined.

Mr. MERRIMON then spoke of the attendance of children of non-residents in the public schools of the District. He said that the public schools of the District were the best in the United States, excepting perhaps those of Connecticut. Persons from all the States come to attend and educate their children at the expense of the citizens of the District. Congress ought to stop this.

Twenty-five or thirty members of Congress send their children to public schools; so do all the employees of the Government who are temporarily here, and he contended that they had no right to do so.

Mr. EDMUNDS advocated his plan to turn over the Health Department to the Surgeon-General as the best way to economy, without being destructive of efficiency.

Mr. WINDOM cited from the report of the Board of Health for 1877 to show that the increase of syphilitic diseases was caused by the lack of appropriations.

Mr. EDMUNDS asserted that an increase of that class of diseases was observable everywhere, and was about to attribute it to a lack of appropriations.

Mr. WETHERS was astonished at hearing in the nineteenth century a proposal to abolish the Board of Health of a city of 100,000 inhabitants. He thought that this board had done excellent work. If the provisions of the bill are objectionable, change them. If the present board is objectionable, provide for the appointment of one.

Mr. MATTHEWS expressed himself as opposed to the amendment, and considered it very injurious to the interests of the citizens of this District. He thought it made very little difference whether members of the board belonged to one school or another, the work to be achieved by them not to cure, but to prevent the conception of disease. He could speak of great evils and the present need of the present board. He now had a lawyer by profession, but who had devoted a life-time to the study of the elements of medical science, and was as well qualified to speak upon the subject as any physician. He referred to Judge Warden. He deprecated the idea of transferring the care of the health of the citizens of this District either to the Commission of Public Health, who were not selected with special reference to the particular duty for the discharge of the peculiar duties of a Board of Health, or to the Surgeon-General, who is already overburdened with work.

Mr. HOWE expressed his opposition to the amendment.

Mr. SARGENT said that if the bill had been reported, giving the board only the powers mentioned in it, the world would not have favored the abolition of the board from Vermont. But this section gives this board such extraordinary powers as to induce him to think that it was not the spontaneous action of the committee, but originated with the bill.

He looked very much to him as if all the lines "to make rules and regulations for all persons engaged in the manufacture, sale, or contagion of disease" were intended to cover the introduction of a system of an immoral nature, which had been in operation in St. Louis. He proceeded to point out other objectionable features, when Mr. BROWN said that the committee were prepared to offer such amendments as would obviate the objections made to the bill.

The amendment of Mr. EDMUNDS to abolish the board was then rejected—aye 18, nay 25.

Mr. SARGENT moved to strike out all of the section providing for enlarged powers to the board, pending which Mr. VORHEES moved that the Senate adjourn.

The Senate then, at five o'clock, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Speaker RANDALL, having returned prised over the House.

Mr. GOODE, from Committee on Education and Labor, reported back the bill to apply the proceeds of public lands to the education of the people, and it was referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

On motion of Mr. FOSTER, the House agreed to the conference asked for by the Senate on the bill to carry into effect the bill for the completion of the Washington Monument, and Messrs. FOSTER, CLYMER, and GOODE were appointed the conferees.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the money appropriation bill, Mr. FOSTER.

The fourteenth section, in relation to the transfer-out of officers reported unfit for duty, which was pending at the adjournment yesterday, was ruled out on a point of order.

The section authorizing the transfer of surplus officers consolidated regiments to the list of permanentaries, was also stricken out on a point of order.

Mr. LEWIS, N. Y., then offered an amendment which extended the provisions, particularly of sections 13, 14, and 15, in relation to the retirement of officers, the number out of officers and the transfer to the supernumerary list, but which was so framed as not to be amenable to the points of order which had previously thrown them out.

Mr. HEWITT, N. Y., then offered an amendment which extended the provisions, particularly of sections 13, 14, and 15, in relation to the retirement of officers, the number out of officers and the transfer to the supernumerary list, but which was so framed as not to be amenable to the points of order which had previously thrown them out.

Mr. HEWITT's amendment was not as liberal to the officers as the original sections were. The President was directed to transfer out and retire certain officers. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 106 to 83.

Mr. FOSTER moved to strike out the eighteenth section, which limits the number of adju-dice-de-com to which general officers may be entitled. Rejected.

The section in relation to the examination of officers below the grade of colonel before they can be promoted; section 24, requiring that officers shall have served five years in the line before being detailed for duty on the staff; section 25, retiring officers who have served forty-five years, or more, and section 26, sixty-five years, were all rejected out of order.

On motion of Mr. KELLY, the provisions of the section in relation to the promotion to the grade of second Lieutenant, were extended to include honorably discharged officers and soldiers of the regular and volunteer army of the United States.

The section in relation to the pay of officers having been rejected, Mr. HEWITT moved to amend by striking the pay of the General \$10,000; Lieutenants General, \$7,000; major-general, \$6,000; and reducing the pay of other field officers in a corresponding degree.

Mr. BRAVO, on behalf of the majority of the Committee on Military Affairs, offered an amendment to Mr. KELLY's amendment, striking the pay of the General \$10,000; Lieutenants General, \$7,000; major-general, \$6,000; and reducing the pay of other field officers in a corresponding degree.

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